NOTE XXXVII.

ON A NEW SPECIES OF GALLINULE.

BY

J. BÜTTIKOFER.

Some days ago our Museum received a probably fully adult female of *Porphyrio*, kindly sent by Mr. A. A. van Bemmelen, the able Director of the Zoological Garden at Rotterdam, with the assurance, that the bird had been caught at and sent from the Lake Toba in the Interior of Sumatra.

Peculiarly enough there is hitherto no evidence published as to the occurrence of a Porphyrio in Sumatra, except by Cassin in U. S. Exploring Expedition, Ornith. p. 308, where, treating of *P. indicus*, the author says that the Museum of the Philadelphia Academy contains specimens from Java, Sumatra and other islands of the Malay Archipelago. As *Porphyrio indicus* Horsf. (*P. calvus* Vieill.) has also been found in Borneo, I was much astonished to see that our Sumatran bird differs not only from this, but also from both the known species from the Continent, though those latter may be considered to be its nearest allies.

According to Elliot's Monograph of the genus *Porphyrio* (Stray Feathers, 1878, p. 6), the Gallinules from the Continent belong to two gray-headed species; *P. poliocephalus* (Lath.) = *P. neglectus* Schl., inhabiting Ceylon and India from the Bay of Bengal to Tenasserim, and *P. edwardsi* Ell. from Cochin-China.

Although very closely allied to both above mentioned species, especially to the second, our Sumatran bird differs from both by the blue (instead of purplish) color of sides of chest, breast and flanks, and from the latter species, with which it is related by its dark green color of back and wings, by the sea-green instead of turquoise blue color of the lower throat and chest.

The new species, which I propose to call after Mr. van Bemmelen, who rendered already so many important services to Ornithology, may be described as follows:

Porphyrio bemmeleni.

Head, chin and upper throat gray, sides of head tinged with blue, ear-coverts and occiput with a purplish hue, sides of neck and hind neck purplish; entire back, rump, upper tail-coverts, secondaries and greater wing-coverts dark green, the latter strongly tinged with olivaceous and narrow undulations under certain lights; mantle, scapulars and lesser wing-coverts paler green, also undulated and more or less broadly margined and tipped with blue. Quills blackish on the inner, green on the outer web; edge of wing, under wing-coverts, lower throat and chest, pale green; sides of chest, entire breast and flanks pale (not purplish) blue; abdomen and vent somewhat darker blue, under tail-coverts pure white, thighs dark green like the back. The tail-feathers are mutilated is our specimen. Bill, head-shield, legs and feet red, with the exception of the knees and joints of toes, which are black; iris red.

Wing 23, tarsus 9, middle toe without claw 9, bill from tip to the posterior end of the head-shield 5.6, from tip to gape 3 cM.

Leyden Museum, June 1889.